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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/554,344	06/23/2000	FRANSISCUS ELISABETH WILLEM VERVUURT	PTT-93	6885
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7265 7590 12/28/2004

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EXAMINER

WAHBA, ANDREW W

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2661

DATE MAILED: 12/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/554,344

Applicant(s)

VERVUURT, FRANSISCUS
ELISABETH WILLEM

Examiner

Andrew W Wahba

Art Unit

2661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07/06/2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 May 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.


PHIRIN SAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 2 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Conoscenti et al (US Patent 5,627,836) in view of Doshi et al (US Patent 5,688,475).

Conoscenti et al discloses an ATM backbone network 15 (physical network) (column 5,13-14). Conoscenti et al further discloses a source 11 (source station) that supplies ATM cells (stream of ATM cells) containing digitized broadcast information via network 15 (column 6, lines 8-10). Conoscenti et al further discloses subscriber stations 17 (destination stations) (column 7, lines 30-31). Conoscenti et al further discloses both a virtual path identifier (VPI) and a virtual channel identifier (VCI) in the administration of an ATM network so that subscribers capture (distinguish) the correct cells (column 6, lines 60-63). The VPI (virtual path identifier) identifies the provider of a

program or service (column 6, line 66 – column 7, line 2). The VCI (virtual connection identifier) identifies the broadcast channel (column 7, lines 2-3).

Cononscenti et al, however, does not expressly disclose a group of different destination stations being subdivided into various subgroups of the destination stations, each of the destination stations in each of the subgroups detect VPIs and VCIs.

Doshi et al describes a cell routing concept in an asynchronous transfer mode, ATM, (ATM network) in which a virtual circuit link (virtual connection) is a logical link between two switches (different stations) and is identified by a VCI value (corresponding connection identifier VCI_{1-n}) (column 1, lines 33-35). Similarly, a virtual path link, VPL, (virtual transmission path) is a logical link between two switches identified by a respective VPI value (corresponding virtual path identifier VPI_1) (column 1, lines 34-36). A virtual circuit connection, VCC, is an end-to-end connection between two devices and is formed by concatenation (sub-group) of VCLs. Likewise, a virtual path connection is formed by the concatenation (group) of VPLs (column 1, lines 36-41).

A person of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ Doshi et al in Conoscenti et al to identify a group and subgroup of destination stations. At the time the invention was made, therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to which the invention pertains to combine Conoscenti et al and Doshi et al so as to obtain the invention as specified by claim 2.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew W Wahba whose telephone number is (571) 272-3081. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kenneth N Vanderpuye can be reached on (571) 272-3078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew Wahba *AW*
Patent Examiner
December 23, 2004

Phirin Sam
PHIRIN SAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER